

## Message Text

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65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AGR-05 EB-07 IO-13 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /081 W  
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O P 021408Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4710

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, MNG

SUBJECT: KOUNTCHE WORRIED ABOUT US PLEDGE OF  
SORGHUM FOR NIGER

REF: NIAMEY 3899 (NOTAL)

1. DIPLOMATIC NOTE RECEIVED FOLLOWING CHARGE'S DISCUSSION  
AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AUGUST 30 REVEALS AGAIN GON'S  
SENSITIVITY ABOUT FOOD DELIVERIES AND SUGGESTS CLEARLY THAT  
ANY US DECISION TO WITHHOLD SECOND TRANCHE OF 4500 T SORGHUM  
WOULD BE VIEWED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, AS RETREAT ON OUR PART  
FROM A CLEARLY ARTICULATED COMMITMENT. POTENTIAL PROBLEMS  
IN ALL THIS ARE OBVIOUS. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME ROUGH  
SAILING WITH GON SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER IF WE CHANGE SIGNALS  
ON BASIS OF TENUOUS INFORMATION WE HAVE SO FAR ABOUT 1976-77  
HARVEST.

2. NOTE READS QUOTE (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING) REFERRING TO THE  
MEETING IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HIS EXCELLENCY MR. DOUGLAS HECK  
ANNOUNCED TO THE CHIEF OF STATE THE DESPATCH BY HIS GOVERNMENT  
OF 9,000 ADDITIONAL TONS OF SORGHUM, HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE  
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EMBASSY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER'S WISH IS THAT THIS NEW

ASSISTANCE TO NIGER ARRIVE IN-COUNTRY IN TOTALITY. (THE GON UNDERSTANDS) THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE SENDING ONLY 4,500 TONS WITH OTHER HALF BEING SENT ONLY IN THE EVENT THAT THE FOOD SITUATION, AFTER THE 1976-77 HARVEST HAS ENDED, IS STILL CRITICAL.

THE NIGER GOVERNMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE PROMISE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHOULD NOT BE TIED TO THE RESULTS OF THE 1976 AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN, ALL THE MORE SO IN THAT THE FOOD NEEDS OF NIGER, AFTER SEVERAL CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF DROUGHT, ARE STILL ENORMOUS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER ASKS THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES TO PLEASE BRING THE FOREGOING TO THE ATTENTION OF ITS GOVERNMENT AND, THANKING IT FOR ITS KIND INTERVENTION. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING)  
UNQUOTE. DAVISON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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